

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination as reflected in the Official Action mailed July 31, 2003. Applicants also appreciate the withdrawal of all rejections based on prior art. Independent Claims 1, 14, 27, 40, 46 and 52 have been amended to recite either "deriving an RSA key using the first user-dependent RSA prime" or "deriving a cryptographic key value based on the selected cryptographic value" as suggested by the Examiner in the Response to Arguments section of the Official Action. Claims 18, 44, 50 and 56 have been amended to conform to the amended independent claims.

The IDS

Applicants submit concurrently herewith an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). Applicants request that the Examiner consider the materials submitted in the IDS and return an initialed copy of the corresponding PTO-1449 form.

The Section 101 Rejections

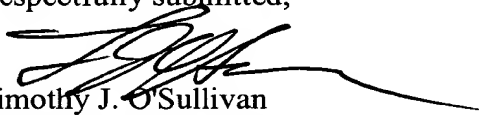
Claims 1-4, 6-9, 12-17, 19-22, 25-30, 32-35, 38-40, 44-46, 50-52, 56 and 57 and Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-30 and 32-47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In the Official Action the Examiner indicates that specifying "derivation of the RSA public and private keys using the selected prime number" would give the claims a tangible result. Official Action, p. 2. As discussed above, Applicants have amended each of the independent claims along the lines suggested in the Official Action. In particular, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 14 and 27 to recite "deriving an RSA key using the first user-dependent RSA prime." Applicants have also amended Claims 40, 46 and 52 to recite "deriving a cryptographic key value based on the selected cryptographic value." Applicants submit that, as indicated in the Official Action, the derivation of a cryptographic key is a useful, tangible result. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 101 have been overcome.

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Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 5, 2003.



Traci A. Brown